

IMPERIAL MUNITIONS BOARD

OTTAWA

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Flavelle, Joseph Wesley

Imperial Munitions Board, Ottawa; Member of Board of Governors

OPEN

Jan-June 1916
(5)

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June 3rd, 1916

J. A. Flavelle, Esq.,
Imperial Munitions Board,
Ottawa.

My dear Mr. Flavelle:

Many thanks for your letter and the opportunity that you have given me of reading the memorial presented by a committee of Engineers to the Prime Minister, which I am returning to you herewith.

The day before I received your letter a communication reached me from Sir George Foster in which he tells me that he has placed before his colleagues a plan for the co-ordination and prosecution of industrial research along the lines discussed with him and several representatives of the Universities a year ago in May.. This matter has been before him now for a year and there has been no outcome until the present. He, however, has asked me to consider the composition of an advisory council to be composed to men engaged in scientific and industrial research together with representatives of industrial interests acquainted with the needs of industrial research. This matter will not be taken up until he returns from the Old Country. How far Sir George Foster's plan will conflict with that of the Prime Minister I cannot say, but it would seem to me that there should be co-operation.

In the University of Toronto we have a committee under the presidency of Dean Ellis which is preparing a report on the question of the way in which a grant of funds could be advantageously

used for the promotion of the application of science to industry.

This is the outcome of that conference at which you were present in the National Trust Company.

Professor McLennan is also at work in connection with the Royal Canadian Institute. He is pushing the matter more from the side of pure science, though he is also deeply interested in the application of pure science to industry.

This general matter has also I understand been taken up by the Royal Society of Canada at its last meeting. There is thus a variety of effort in the one direction.

There seem to me to be two distinct proposals from the Ottawa side of it. One in accordance with Sir George Foster's plan, - an advisory committee to which all proposed plans for the carrying on of this object shall be submitted. The other a definite proposal for the establishment of laboratories at Ottawa, the Engineers, as in your memorandum desiring laboratories for the practical testing of operations before they are carried into effect on a large scale by the Government or manufacturers, and the proposal for the establishment of a Bureau of Standards, such as exists now at Washington and in Germany, this being more purely scientific though likely to lead to practical industrial results,

There is another side of the question, and that is the extent to which a properly organised movement might make use of the laboratories that already exist in the Universities. It would seem to me therefore that the problems should not be approached from any

one side, but that the Dominion should appoint a very large and representative committee to deal with all these questions, and if necessary to co-operate with the Provincial Governments and Provincial Universities, because a measure that is undertaken by the Dominion Government and which might need the co-operation of the Provincial Universities could hardly be carried out unless the Provincial Governments sanctioned their doing so.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

January 12th, 1916

J. W. Flavelle, Esq., LL.D.,
Imperial Munitions Board,
Ottawa.

My dear Mr. Flavelle:

Many thanks for your letter with its promise of a scholarship. I quite understand that at the present time you do not feel like giving more than the one.

It seems to me that my best plan will now be to try to raise six scholarships now, each for three years; then next year to get six more, and the third year six more. I should like to keep some of them at least for the first offer for the West. I hope to be able to have the six to be inserted in our Calendar this spring.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.



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May Thirtieth,
Nineteen-Sixteen.

My dear President Falconer:

The Prime Minister has forwarded to me a copy of a memorial presented to him by a Committee of Engineers. I think it is probable he has forwarded the same document to you, but fearing that he has not done so I venture to send my copy.

I remember the meeting in the office of the National Trust Company, between Members of the Board of Governors of the University and Members of the Executive Council of the Canadian Institute. My recollection is that the matter submitted by the Canadian Institute resembles the memorial presented by this Committee of Engineers.

I will appreciate a letter from you, for my own information only, indicating how you view this memorial.

There will be no disagreement as to the desirability of action being taken along some such lines as is indicated in the memorial; I presume there will be some question as to how it should be done, and where. It would be natural for the Universities to think they should do some of the work, as

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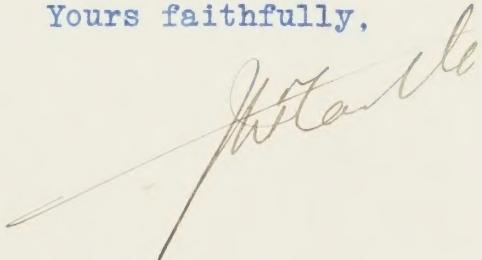
President Falconer, #2 - 30/5/16.

it would be natural for a body of men independent of the University to consider that centrally located laboratories, and an organization in connection with the Government, is desirable.

A great step forward will have been taken if all concerned can agree on a working plan which will secure efficiency of service and which will command Federal support.

Will you be kind enough to return the memorial at the same time that you write me.

Yours faithfully,



Robt. A. Falconer, Esq., M.A., LL.D.,
President, University of Toronto,
Toronto, Ont.

1 Enclosure.

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June sixth
Nineteen sixteen.

My dear Sir Robert,

I appreciate the opportunity you have given me to consider the memorial presented to you by a body of engineers regarding a national industrial development plan for the Dominion.

As a member of the Board of Governors of the University of Toronto, I attended a joint Committee Meeting made up of members of the University and the Canadian Institute, covering the service which might be performed by making use of the laboratories at the University for industrial research work. I understand also that Sir George Foster has had before him some plan for developing industrial research. I am heartily in favour of the purpose indicated in the memorial which has been presented to you, as well as what has been suggested by Sir. Geo. Foster and the joint committee above referred to. In view of these activities and others of which I am probably unaware, would you think it desirable, before action is taken, if some representative members of each body formed a central committee and thus secured the unity of action which might in operation be broken into activities at various universities, or centralized in a general laboratory at Ottawa or some other point as might then be determined?

I believe the desirability of industrial research should be developed and that when a plan of operation is approved, ample support should be given in carrying out the work.

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June 6th, 1916.

I think advantage should be taken
of the sentiment so widespread in the country that
we should unite more closely the scientific with
the activities of industrial life.

Yours faithfully,

The Right Honourable, Chairman.
Sir Robert L. Borden, P.C. G.C.M.G.
Prime Minister of Canada,
Ottawa.

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PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

Ottawa, Ont. June 7th, 1916.

Dear Mr. Flavelle,

Your letter 6th inst. with respect to a national industrial development plan for the Dominion is before me. A beginning has already been made so far as research is concerned by the recent passage of an Order-in-Council, P.C. 1266, copy of which I am sending for your information.

A copy of your letter and of President Falconer's communication is being sent to each member of the sub-committee appointed by that Order-in-Council.

Yours faithfully,

(SGD) R. L. BORDEN

J. W. Flavelle, Esq.,

Chairman,

Imperial Munitions Board,

Ottawa.

Encl.

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P.C. 1266.

Certified copy of a Report of the Committee of the Privy Council approved by His Royal Highness the Governor General on the 6th June, 1916.

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The Committee of the Privy Council have had before them a Report, dated 23rd May, 1916, from the Minister of Trade and Commerce, to whom was referred a Despatch from the Right Hon. A. Bonar Law, Secretary of State for the Colonies, calling attention to a scheme of scientific and industrial research for the United Kingdom, as embodied in Parliamentary Paper C.D. 8005, attached thereto, and a copy of the Order in Council approving the same.

The Minister observes that this scheme, proposed by Mr. Arthur Henderson, contemplated the appointment of a Committee of the Privy Council which should be responsible for the carrying out of the same, and a small Advisory Council responsible to the Committee to be composed mainly of scientific men and men actually engaged in industries dependent upon scientific research. By Order in Council, 28th July, 1915 effect was given to this scheme and the Committee and Council proposed therein were appointed and their respective duties set out. The scheme was to be applied to the United Kingdom as a whole and was not intended in any way to interfere with the arrangements already made by the War Office and Admiralty in respect to obtaining scientific assistance for the improvement of munitions of war, but was designed to establish a permanent organization for the promotion of scientific and industrial research.

The Minister observes that after this

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scheme had gone into operation, suggestions were made from various sources that it should be extended and made applicable to the Overseas Dominions or even to the Empire as a whole. These suggestions were approved in principle by the Committee of Council and a memorandum was prepared intimating certain preliminary steps that might be taken to bring about gradually co-operation of effort and co-ordination of research throughout the Empire.

On the 28th January, 1916, the Minister of Munitions caused to be distributed to educational institutions in the United Kingdom, a circular letter inviting co-operation in the improvement and invention of appliances for the prosecution of warfare on land, and copies of the same were sent to certain universities in Canada. As a result, these Universities have given full information of the facilities they possess for carrying on research work in respect to the specific purpose of the Minister of Munitions. They express willingness also to co-operate and assist in the work of industrial research and are of the opinion that some Department of the Government of Canada should undertake to co-ordinate and supervise this work and act as a medium of communication.

The Minister desires to point out the urgent necessity of organizing, mobilizing and encouraging the existing resources of industrial and scientific research in Canada with the purpose of utilizing waste products, discovering new processes mechanical, chemical and metallurgical - and developing into useful adjuncts to industry and commerce

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the unused natural resources of Canada. At no period has the importance of such united and thorough action been so evident as since the conditions brought about by the war, when the scarcity of certain compounds and processes has caused confusion and paralysis in industries and greatly added to costs of living. Canada has educational and scientific institutions more or less well equipped for conducting this research which have already done much along their several lines and are willing and anxious to equip themselves for doing more. There are also private, corporate and Government laboratories, more or less engaged in research work. The Manufacturers' Associations are alive to the importance and absolute necessity of such work in relation to the industries of the country and are anxious to co-operate in and support it.

What seems to be immediately urgent is to have some method of co-ordination and direction which shall combine the efforts of all, along the lines for which each is best adapted and which would tend to avoid duplication and promote efficiency of action. To this end the Minister has been more or less in continuous communication and conference with representatives of the universities, the Canadian Manufacturers' Association and the scientific institutions. The consideration thus given has resulted in a practically unanimous agreement both as to the necessity of immediate action and as to the lines along which it should be taken.

The Minister, therefore, recommends the appointment of a Committee in Council to consist

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of the Minister of Trade and Commerce, the Minister of the Interior, the Minister of Mines, the Minister of Inland Revenue, the Minister of Labour, and the Minister of Agriculture, which shall be charged with, and responsible for, the expenditure of any monies provided by Parliament for scientific and industrial research, and also an Advisory Committee, responsible to the Committee of Council, to be composed of nine members representative of the scientific and industrial interests of Canada, who shall be charged with the following duties -

(a) To consult with all responsible bodies and persons carrying on scientific and industrial research work in Canada with a view to bringing about united effort and mutual co-operation in solving the various problems of scientific and industrial research which from time to time present themselves.

(b) To co-ordinate as far as possible the work so carried on so as to avoid overlapping of effort, and to direct the various problems requiring solution into the hands of those whose equipment and ability are best adapted thereto.

(c) To select the most practical and pressing problems indicated by industrial necessities and present them when approved by the Committee to the research bodies for earliest possible solution.

(d) To report from time to time the progress and results of their work to the Minister of Trade and Commerce as Chairman of the Committee in Council.

That a competent Secretary be appointed on the nomination of the Committee and paid by the Department of Trade and Commerce,

That the travelling expenses of the Committee shall be paid by the Department of Trade and Commerce.

The Committee concur in the foregoing and submit the same for approval.

(SGD) RODOLPHE BOUDREAU

Clerk of the Privy Council



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June Sixth
Nineteen Sixteen.

My dear President Falconer,-

I have your letter of the 3rd.

In view of the various efforts
which are being made - all to the same end - I
think your suggestion that action should only
be taken after determination by a representative
committee, is sensible.

I took the liberty of handing a
copy of your letter to the Prime Minister.

Yours faithfully,

Robt. A. Falconer, Esq., M.A., L.L.D.,
President,
University of Toronto,
Toronto, Ont.



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June Eighth
Nineteen Sixteen.

My dear President Falconer,-

In further reference to national
industrial development and research.

In connection with such a move-
ment, I wrote Sir Robert as per the attached copy.
I send you herewith a copy of his reply, together
with a copy of an Order-in-Council, P.C.1266, dated
the 6th inst., which he was good enough to forward
me. It is possible you have seen this Order-
in-Council and the memo prepared by the Minister
of Trade and Commerce. It would seem to me
that advantage could well be taken of the activity
shown by the Minister of Trade and Commerce in the appointment
of the Sub Committee of the Cabinet charged with
the responsibility of any moneys assigned by
Parliament for scientific and industrial research,
as well as the honorary Advisory Committee charged
with the duties which are indicated. I would
assume therefore, that some definite plan of action

ought

June 8th, 1916.

ought to emerge leading to a useful division of the work to be undertaken.

I would judge that the personnel of the nine members of the Advisory Committee is a matter of importance.

Yours faithfully,



Robt. A. Falconer, Esq., M.A., L.L.D.,
President,
University of Toronto,
Toronto, Ont.

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June 9th, 1916

J. W. Flavelle, Esq.,
Imperial Munitions Board,
Ottawa.

My dear Sir:

In the absence of President Falconer in Winnipeg
I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the
8th inst. which will be brought to his attention on his return
to Toronto next week.

Yours very truly,

President's Secretary.

June 21st, 1916

J. W. Flavelle, Esq.,
Imperial Munitions Board,
Ottawa.

My dear Mr. Flavelle:

Many thanks for your letter enclosing the copy of your communication to Sir Robert Borden with regard to the advisability of the developing of Industrial Research and his reply, together with the copy of the Order-in-Council.

I myself feel that the two matters of importance in connection with this movement on the part of the Dominion Government are (1) the personnel of the Committee, and (2) that the Minister of Trade and Commerce when he appoints that committee should give it a generous enough appropriation to make its investigations and suggestions of real value. It would be a pity if the movement should become one-sided or slip into the control of any one corporation, such as the C.P.R., simply because they are willing to finance it on a sufficiently generous scale.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

